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| 09/673,614 | 10/19/2000 | Jean-Francois Grimaldi | Q61365 | 2115 |

7590

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, PHUONGCHI T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 01/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/673,614

Applicant(s)

GRIMALDI ET AL.

Examiner

Phuongchi T Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 21, 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:
1. ☐ received.
2. ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) _____.
3. ☐ received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 14) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 15) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 16) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 17) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 18) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 19) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment of November 12, 2002 is acknowledged. It is noted that claims 1, 5 and 9 are amended; new claims 12-16 are added.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 9, 12 and 13 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claims 9, 12 and 13, lines 2-8, 2-7 and 2-7, respectively, "which is ...coplanar" contains the limitations of claim 5. Accordingly, claims 9, 12 and 13 cannot be further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) The invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-11 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bricaud et al (US6053776).

In regard to claim 1, Bricaud discloses a spring contact (44) for use in a connector, which spring contact (44) is substantially U-shaped and has two branches (82, 60) and a base (61) joining the first and second branches (82, 60) at one end for forming a U-shape, and wherein each of the first and second branches (82, 60) complete an electrical connection with a device (see Column 3, lines 16-20), characterized in that the first and second branches (82, 60) lie in

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two diverging planes (see figure 10). The intersection of the two planes is within the base (61) of the U-shape, and the first branch (82) and the base (66) are coplanar.

In regard to claim 3, Bricaud discloses the spring contact (44) characterized in that the electrical contact (44) of at least one branch (82) is at the free end (86) of the branch (82) (see figure 10).

In regard to claim 4, Bricaud discloses the spring contact (44) characterized in that one of the first and second branches (82) is adapted to come into contact with a printed circuit (16) and the other of the first and second branches (60) is adapted to come into contact with a battery; The shape of the contacts allows contact with these devices. They are therefore seen to be adapted to do so.

In regard to claim 5, Bricaud further discloses an electrical connector (40) comprising a first face (46) and a second face (48) opposite the first face (46), and at least one housing (52) for receiving a spring contact (44) and opening onto both of the first and second faces (46, 48), wherein the spring contact (44) is positioned in the housing so that a plane containing a base (61) of the U-shape is substantially parallel to the respective planes of the faces (46, 48) of the connector (40) (see figures 15-17).

In regard to claim 6, Bricaud discloses the connector (40) further comprising a guide (98) to guide the spring contact (44) into position in the housing (see figure 4).

In regard to claim 7, Bricaud discloses the connector (40) further comprising a retainer for retaining the spring contact (44) in the housing (see figure 4).

In regard to claim 8, Bricaud discloses the connector characterized in that one branch (60) of the spring contact (44) projects from the housing (see figure 15).

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In regard to claim 10, Bricaud discloses the connector characterized in that one face (46, 48) of the connector (44) has a pick-up area (hole) substantially at the center of said face (46, 48) (see figure 2).

In regard to claim 11, Bricaud discloses the connector having lateral faces (92) joining the first and second faces (46, 48), characterized in that the lateral faces (92) include at least one recess (54) and a free end (62) of one branch (60) of the spring contact (44) projects into the recess (54) (see figure 5).

In regard to claim 14, Bricaud discloses (figure 1) a connector comprising a spring contact (44) wherein the spring contact (44) is substantially U-shaped and has first and second branches (60, 82) and a base (61) joining the first and second branches (60, 82) at one end for forming a U-shape, and wherein the first branches (60) make electrical contact with a first device (a smart card) (see Column 3, lines 16-20), and the second branches (82) make electrical contact with a second device (circuit board 16)(figure 16) characterized in that the first and second branches (60, 82) lie in two diverging planes (see figure 10). The intersection of the two planes is within the base (61) of the U-shape, and the first branch (82) and the base (66) are coplanar.

In regard to claim 15, Bricaud discloses the connector characterized in that the electrical contact (44) of at least one branch (82) is at the free end (86) of the branch (82) (see figure 10).

In regard to claim 16, Bricaud discloses the spring contact (44) characterized in that the second branches (82) is a printed circuit (16) and the first branches (60) is a battery; The shape of the contacts allows contact with theses devices. They are therefore seen to be adapted to do so.

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Response to Arguments

5. In response to applicant's argument, "said first and second branches complete an electrical connection" is not deemed allowable, because the first and the second branches of the spring contact is one piece of metal, when the electrical connection goes through one branch of the spring contact, the other branch of the same spring contact will be automatically conducted the same electric current.

6. Claims 14-16 stand final rejected as discussed in the office action; applicant presented no argument why these claims would be allowable over the other record.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **PhuongChi Nguyen** whose telephone number is (703) 305-0729. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Austin Bradley, can be reached on (703)308-2319. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 306-3900.

January 24, 2003

P. Bradley
P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
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